

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Reification and Control on Individual in William Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Hum Prasad Bhandari

Roll No.: 41/2061

January 2008

Tribhuvan University
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled "**Reification and Control of Individual in William Burroughs's *Naked Lunch***" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus by Hum Prasad Bhandari has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Hrisheekesh Upadhyay

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Hrisheekesh Upadhyay

Head

Department of English

Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

This research would not have been possible without the scholarly and constructive suggestions and guidance of my thesis supervisor Mr. Hrisheekesh Upadhyay. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for his support from the very beginning to the approval as the Head of the Department of English.

I am equally indebted to my teachers Dr Anand Sharma, Bijay Kumar Rauniyar, Dr. Binay Jha, Mr. Kamal Subba, Mr. Ghanashyam Raj Kafle and other teachers for their teachings and direct and indirect supports.

I feel great that some of my friends have continually encouraged and supported me for the work. I am thankful to Baburam Timalisina, Sabita Nakarmi, Uddav Adhikari and Ramesh Pathak. Sharda Acharya has a role of a catalyst as she kept on reminding me of the mission.

I am whole-heartedly grateful to my parents for everything they have done to make me who I am. Likewise, my brother Sanjay, cousin Basanta and niece Rama deserve my sincere thanks for their support in technical tasks for the dissertation.

Hum Prasad Bhandari

bhandari800@hotmail.com

January 2008

Abstract

This thesis observes *Naked Lunch* as a portrayal of social, political and economic domination, manipulation and control of individual in the modern market-centered economy. The scientific techniques as represented by Dr. Benway are totally reductions of the mind and body by objectifying them so as to make an individual easy to control. The political parties of Interzone Divisionists, Liquefactionists and Senders represent the agents or power sources which try to end all human identity and individual difference and establish total uniformity in the form of their own replicas. Likewise, the idea of addiction to power and control has been developed in a parallel way with addiction to drug, sex and consumerism. Human body, mind, language and creative potential are reduced to the level of an object. This objectification and reification is precisely a way of control. Moreover, drugs are the ultimate merchandise and Burroughs sees addiction as part of the global conspiracy by the presiding powers of our world which are determined to reduce us to the total dependency of addicts, while teasing us with the mirage of transgressive sex.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abstract

I. Introduction **1**

William Seward Burroughs

Non-conformity and Resistance in Beats

Reification and Control

II. Objectification of Individual in Capitalism **15**

Alienation through Objectification and Reification

Objectification of Human Language and Creativity

III. Agents and Objects of Manipulation and Control at Work in *Naked Lunch* **24**

Body and Language

State and Bureaucracy

Drug

Dr. Benway and Characters

Interzone and Political Factions

III. Conclusion: Attempts to Liberation **45**

Works Cited **49**